

III. Remarks**A. Allowable Subject Matter**

Applicants are grateful to the Examiner for allowing claims 20-37 and for recognizing the allowable subject matter set forth in dependent claims 5 and 14.

B. Claim Amendments

Claims 1-37 are pending in the present application. Dependent claims 5 and 14 have been canceled and their features amended into independent claims 1 and 11, respectively.

C. Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Action rejects claims 1-4, 6-7 and 10 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,270,865 to Noonan et al. Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of objected claim 5. It is submitted that claim 1 and dependent claims 2-4, 6-7 and 10 are in allowable form.

D. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Action rejects claims 8-9, 11-13 and 15-19 as being obvious from Noonan et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,220,689 to Pfeffer. Claim 8-9 depend from claim 1 and are, therefore, in allowable form. Independent claim 11 has been amended to include the features of objected claim 11. It is submitted that claim 11 and dependent claims 12-13 and 15-19 are in allowable form.

IV. Conclusion


In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any excess payment that may be associated with this communication to deposit account **04-1679**.

Respectfully submitted,

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